



U.S. Department of Justice

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Western District of New York*

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PROJECT EXILE PRESS RELEASE

February 19, 2004

RE: UNITED STATES v. BILLY B. SANDERS

United States Attorney Michael A. Battle announced today that on February 19, 2004, Billy B. Sanders, 22, of 269 Selye Terrace, Rochester, New York, pled guilty before Honorable David G. Larimer, United States District Court Judge, to violations of federal law. On February 19, 2004, Billy B. Sanders pled guilty to two counts of indictment 03-CR-6083. The first count charges him with carrying and brandishing a firearm in the furtherance of a drug trafficking crime, a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 924(c), which carries a mandatory minimum sentence of a term of imprisonment of at least seven (7) years and up to life; and the second count charges him with possession with intent to distribute cocaine base, a violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 841(a)(1), which carries a maximum possible sentence of a term of imprisonment of twenty years.

On February 19, 2004, Billy B. Sanders also plead guilty to one count of indictment 03-CR-6114, charging him with failure to appear on the above indictment, a violation of Title

18, United States Code, Section 3146(a)(1), which carries a maximum possible sentence of a term of imprisonment of up to ten years, said sentence to be served consecutive to any other sentence imposed.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Julia N. Romanow stated that on April 2, 2003, in the vicinity of 119 Ravine Avenue in the City of Rochester, Billy B. Sanders was carrying and brandishing a firearm, namely, one 22 Long Rifle Caliber, Chinese TT-Olympia Pistole model semi-automatic pistol, bearing serial number 10494, while at the same time possessing an amount of cocaine base which was intended and packaged for sale. On June 2, 2003, the defendant, Billy B. Sanders failed to appear before Magistrate Judge Marian W. Payson as ordered and violated other conditions of his release. Sentencing will be scheduled at a later time.

The Indictments and guilty pleas were the culmination of a Project Exile investigation on the part of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, under the direction of Resident Agent in Charge Michael Lawandus and the United States Marshal Service, under the direction of U.S. Marshal Peter A. Lawrence.

Project Exile is a special initiative announced in the City of Rochester on September 29, 1998 to end the culture of violence in the Rochester community. Under Project Exile, cases involving illegal firearms are prosecuted in Federal Court to take advantage of the stiffer penalties under the Federal gun laws.

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